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a sheet folding device configured to fold the sheet conveyed by the receiving device in two at a center portion thereof in a direction the sheet is conveyed so as to be a folded sheet and convey the folded sheet with the folded portion thereof being a leading edge of the folded sheet;

a jogging device including a jogging table, configured to receive and jog the folded sheet, conveyed by the sheet folding device, one after another, so as to be stacked into a stack of folded sheets on the jogging table; and

a leading edge stopping device configured to stop the folded sheet at the leading edge so that the folded sheet is jogged with respect to the leading edge thereof.

29. (Amended) The sheet folding and jogging apparatus of Claim 20,

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wherein the leading edge stopping device stops the folded sheet to be conveyed so that the folded sheet is jogged with respect to the leading edge thereof relative to a binding device, and

wherein the leading edge stopping device include a leading edge binding position adjusting device configured to change a position the leading edge stopping device stops the folded sheet to be conveyed so that a position in the folded sheet relative to the leading edge thereof where the binding device binds the folded sheet is changed.

33. (Amended) A sheet folding and jogging apparatus, comprising:

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receiving means for receiving a sheet from outside and conveying the sheet;

folding means for folding the sheet conveyed by the receiving means in two at a center portion thereof in a direction the sheet is conveyed so as to be a folded sheet, and conveying the

folded sheet with the folded portion thereof being a leading edge of the folded sheet;

03 jogging means including a jogging table, for receiving and jogging the folded sheet, conveyed by the folding means, one after another, so as to be stacked into a stack of folded sheets on the jogging table; and

leading edge stopping means configured to stop the folded sheet at the leading edge so that the folded sheet is jogged with respect to the leading edge thereof.

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 31, 2002. Claims 1-53 are pending in this application, with claims 35-53 having been withdrawn from consideration. Of the claims presently under consideration, claims 1, 14, 15, 20 and 30-34 are in independent form. By the present Amendment, claims 20, 29 and 33, have been amended. It is submitted that no new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised by the present Amendment.

Claim 32 was objected to as allegedly a duplicate of claim 15. In response, it is noted that claim 32 is written in means plus function language and that claim 15 is not. Accordingly, Claims 15 and 32 are not duplicates. In any event, it is respectfully submitted that claim 32 is allowable for at least reasons similar to claim 15.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 15-19 are allowable and claims 3, 4, 6-11, 22, 23 and 25-28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1, 2, 12-14, 20, 21, 24, 29-31, 33 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.